1. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of extending a communication test/measurement agent, comprising:

providing the communication test/measurement agent with built-in functionality to allow a communication test/measurement system or client to generically communicate with and operate the agent; and

providing the communication test/measurement agent with built-in functionality to allow the agent to automatically recognize and dynamically incorporate interface-specific plugins that are specific to different types of communication interfaces and which allow the communication test/measurement client or system to communicate with the respective different types of communication interfaces.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the incorporating is done by loading code of a plugin into the agent.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a plugin is recognized and incorporated after the communication test/measurement agent has been deployed for communications test/measurement and without reprogramming the agent.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein a plugin communicates with an application program that drives a communication interface of the type corresponding to the plugin.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the agent provides a basic API to the central communication test/measurement system that is independent of any communication interfaces, and wherein the plugins extend the API for the respective types of interfaces.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein one plugin for a particular type of communication interface allows communication with different communication interfaces of the ~~that~~ particular type.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein an extensible language is used to communicate with the API, wherein a base set of commands of the extensible language corresponds to the built-in functionality, and wherein the recognizing and incorporating of a plugin further comprises extending the extensible language with additional verbs that are specific to the plugin.

8. (Original) A method of communication with network analysis software, the method comprising:

      sending requests from a communication testing console to a communication agent;

      receiving the requests at the agent;

      when a first one of the requests is directed to a communication interface, handling the first request with a plugin of the agent that is specific to the type of the communication interface; and

      when a second one of the requests is not directed to a communication interface, handling the second request with a common generic portion of the agent.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the plugin responds to the first one of the requests with a response received from an application program that drives the communication interface to which the first request is directed.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the common generic portion of the agent handles the second request by generating a response to the second request.

11. (Original) A method of extending a communication agent that provides a communication point for a console of a communication test/measurement system, the method comprising: deploying the communication agent, where the communication agent is deployed on a computing device comprising a communication interface and communicates with the communication interface using a driver application program, and where the console programmatically accesses the agent and accesses the interface through the agent; and after the deploying, making the deployed communication agent aware of a new communication interface by installing on the computing device plugin software that can handle commands specific to the new communication interface, where the agent self-recognizes the plugin software and self-integrates the plugin software, whereby the plugin software becomes part of the agent and allows the console to send commands to the new communication interface.

12. (Currently Amended) A communication test/measurement agent instantiated in a storage medium, comprising:

    built-in code to allow a central communication test/measurement system to generically communicate with and operate the agent; and

    built-in code to allow the agent to automatically recognize and dynamically incorporate interface-specific plugins that are specific to different types of communication interfaces and which allow the network test/measurement system to communicate with the respective different types of communication interfaces.

13. (Original) A communication/test measurement agent according to claim 12, further comprising an interface table comprising entries, wherein the agent adds an entry in the interface table to correspond to a new plugin which the agent has incorporated.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ communication measurement agent according to claim 13, wherein entries in the interface table identify a plugin for a type of communication interface and a corresponding communication interface of that type.

15. A machine-readable storage storing information enabling a network test/measurement agent to perform a process, the process comprising:

receiving and processing generic communications from a central communication test/measurement system to generically operate the network test/measurement agent; and

recognizing and dynamically incorporating into the network test/measurement agent interface-specific plugins that are specific to different types of communication interfaces and which allow the central communication test/measurement system to communicate with the respective different types of communication interfaces.